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14 February, 2023

Chair Soliman and Members  
Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment  
State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 522, Modernizing the Oregon Global Warming Commission

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Dear Chair Soliman and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 522. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that has worked with Oregonians for more than 45 years to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choices.

The Oregon Global Warming Commission was established by the Legislature in 2007. In the intervening years our understanding of the issues has evolved in many ways—not least of which is that we now know that the impacts of climate change go beyond a warmer climate to include higher high temperatures, lower low temperatures, changes in weather events that can sometimes be catastrophic, increased drought and wildfire risks, and more. With that new understanding this is an appropriate time to modernize the Global Warming Commission, it's makeup, and the goals that guide its work.

SB 522 will do those things. Changing the name to the Oregon Climate Action Commission (the Commission) will better reflect the breadth of the Commission's responsibilities. Tying those responsibilities and the recommendations that come out of their work to the best available science will ensure best possible outcomes. And broadening the number of voting members, ex-officio members of the Commission and state agencies that coordinate their work with the Commission will only help make Oregon's climate response work more efficient and effective.

In particular, we know that transportation is the single largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Our transportation needs are a direct result of land use decisions, which is why land use planning and transportation planning are so closely linked. It only makes sense that the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) be explicitly included in the Commission's work.


Similarly, we know that it is not just forest lands but natural and working lands (farm and forest lands) that will play a role in sequestration and the net reduction of emissions. It makes sense

to recognize this in the language that guides the Commission's work (by replacing the reference to "forests" to "natural and working lands") and to include the natural resource agencies and entities that administer programs on those lands—including the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB).

Finally, it is our understanding that there is an amendment being worked on that would update the state's goals for greenhouse gas emissions based on recent work by the Commission and the Department of Energy that included comprehensive modeling and stakeholder engagement. We support updated statutory emissions reduction targets based on this work.

We urge you to support SB 522 with the forthcoming amendment. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Holmes", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Greg Holmes  
Food Systems Program Director  
1000 Friends of Oregon